

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). Pressure pipe resin comprising from 90 to 99.9 wt%, based on the total weight of the resin, of a polyethylene, and from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.

2 (original). Pressure pipe resin according to claim 1 which is multimodal, preferably bimodal.

3 (original). Pressure pipe resin according to claim 2 formed from a blend of (a) a polyethylene resin comprising from 35 to 60 wt% of a high molecular weight fraction having a density of up to 0.930 g/cm^3 and from 40 to 65 wt% of a low molecular weight fraction having a density of at least 0.965 g/cm^3 , and (b) from 0.1 to 10 wt%, based on the total weight of the blend, of an ionomer.

4 (currently amended). Resin according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 0.5 and 6 wt% based on the total weight of the blend, preferably between 1 and 5 wt%.

5 (original). Resin according to claim 4, wherein the quantity of ionomer in the blend is between 1 and 2 wt% based on the total weight of the blend.

6 (currently amended). Resin according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the ionomer ~~is~~ has a polyethylene backbone and has a density of at least 0.930 g/cm³.

7 (currently amended). Resin according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the ionomer is a grafted metal salt of an ethylene and maleic anhydride copolymer.

8 (currently amended). Resin according to ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1, wherein the polyethylene resin comprises from 35 to 49 wt% of a first polyethylene fraction of high molecular weight, and from 51 to 65 wt% of a second polyethylene fraction of low molecular weight, the first polyethylene fraction comprising a linear low density polyethylene having a density of up to 0.928 g/cm³ and an HLMI of less than 0.6g/10min, and the second polyethylene fraction comprising a high density polyethylene having a density of at least 0.969g/cm³ and an MI₂ of greater than 100g/10min, and the polyethylene resin having a density of greater than 0.940g/cm³ and an HLMI of from 1 to 100 g/10min.

9 (currently amended). Pressure pipe comprising a resin as defined in ~~any preceding claim~~claim 1.

10 (original). Pressure pipe according to claim 9 which has an extrapolated 20°C / 50 years stress at a 97.5% confidence level of at least 10 MPa (PE 100) according to ISO 9080.

11 (currently amended). Use of a resin as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 in a pressure pipe.